

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is with great joy I am writing this News Letter to you. The Lord has blessed the Lutheran Church of Haiti so much that it is important for me as the President to inform and let you know what's going on.

We have been growing from 87 congregations last February 2004 to 137 congregations by now. We have recently have 20 Lutheran congregations from Jeremie areas and 10 from Les Cayes that have, a month and half ago, decided to join the LCH while 14 more have been planted in various Districts of the LCH such as Cap Haitian and Port-de-Paix and Artibonite.

We can say that our focus on evangelism and Church planting start to bring forth fruits. Only for the past six month we have been able to preach the Good News of the Gospel to more than 50,000 people through our LCH media Ministries both TV and radio stations beside our various local church efforts to reach out the lost. This has enabled us to plant 14 congregations in areas where there is no Church in three Districts. As we praise the Lord for that, yet there is a big challenge that we are facing. It was how and where to find workers to take care of these new churches. Our Church planting committee has decided that we use lay pastor assistants in 14 existing Churches to take care of these congregations until we'll have in place the LCH seminary without wall to prepare workers in a formal way to take care of these Churches. But now these Churches are being served by 14 existing lay Pastor assistant that have been transferred temporarily in these 14 Churches until the start of the LCH seminary.

The official opening date of the LCH seminary without wall is December 1st, 2004 at Global village in Port-au-Prince. The Reverend Darell Stuenberg as well as other Pastor in Florida are being invited to teach the first two courses in the curriculum : Law and Gospel and Christology. Reverend Romulus and I will be responsible to translate during the whole time of the first session at Global village this coming December. At this first session I expect 105 Lay Pastors that will be part of the training process + a team of musicians from Faith Lutheran Church to anime worship service in the morning and overnight. At the end of the session, the following Sunday there will be a evaluation test for credit.

What 's an exciting adventure for these Lay Pastors to know that they will be certified and ordained as Lutheran Pastors in about two years training though this seminary without wall at the completion of the training. Training session will held at the end of each month from December 2004 though December 2006 in various regions of the country.

Our greatest need to get the seminary going through its regular schedule is human resources. We need teachers from the US and Canada that will be able to come down on a regular basis to teach each month during 24 months. Training session will last three days at the end of the month. In case any of you would be qualified to teach, please let

me know ASAP so that I can schedule a teaching session for you. Also we have calculated the cost and expenses per session. The cost estimated for a session is \$1500 US a month including reading materials, lodging and food. The Lay pastors will be responsible to pay the seminary and their own transportation. Joseph Romulus and I will be responsible to teach some classes regarding local evangelism, Church planting, Parish administration in Haitian context. In addition, there will be a Haitian team to administer the seminary.

I am asking all of you to pray for this great project. This is a very BIG and important project that we have to prepare workers for the harvest.

Our credit Union project that have been started last February is doing very well. We had invested \$2000 US in two District, Artibonite and South, Les Cayes. So far Church members that are part of the program are paying off the 3% interest regularly. Besides, they have, this year, enough money to pay school tuitions for their children and able to provide daily food for their own family. Praise the Lord the experience we have had in investing loan money for small businesses in our Churches have been such a great success.

All we would like to have now is more funding to get the program extended, moving to benefit more and more Lutheran families in all Districts in the LCH.

The LCH medical clinic currently in construction in Gonaives is almost done. Now we are plastered the wall and I expect the whole construction work to be completed by the end of October so that when Jay Brinkmeyer comes in November we might have an official dedication of the building. As you already know short term Mission teams of nurses and Doctors are needed to keep the medical clinic open as we are planning to use it as an outreach tool. I need Jay Brinkmeyer to let us know when he is planning to come down so that we might plan the official opening day accordingly. Again thanks to Christ Lutheran Church for providing the necessary funding to help build up this medical clinic.

As the school year 2004-05 will start in about a week from now, we are planning to start another Trade school in the Les Cayes District with two sewing machines on behalf of young Lutheran men and women in the town of Port salut. Based on our experience in Gonaives with the existing Trade school, it seems that Trade school is a good way to help Lutherans in Haiti becoming self sufficient. Why not continuing to start this type of school all over the LCH Districts if it is doing so well? So thanks to Canadian World Relief for helping us established the Gonaives Trade school which is becoming now a success. We'll certainly keep moving in that Direction. The LCH would love to have the cooperation of the LCMS World Relief to assist us in this direction.

Prayer request : I request your prayers on behalf of these 20 Jeremie Lutheran congregations that have been very discouraged. They all need spiritual as well as Financial support from us as their former ELCH leaders had not been taken care of them.

As now they turned to the LCH for vision and direction, may the Lord help them finding vision, direction and support.

Prayer request also on behalf of the new 14 congregations being planted, the seminary without wall and the OATH Ministry in Boca Raton, Florida.

Special prayer request on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church construction project. We are in need of \$50,000 to finish up the construction of Faith Lutheran Church, a sanctuary for 2500 people. Please pray so that the Lord might draw some individuals and Churches to sponsor this building project. The construction site is currently deteriorating. Construction work that got started 4 years ago was stopped for lack of funding.

Needs. We are in need of sewing machines, mechanic, construction, carpenter tools. Needs of an oven and refrigerator. A copying machine for the seminary, computers for the computer school, cloths, shoes and suits for the thrift store which is doing very, very well.

Special prayer request for Haiti as Hurricane Yvane is approaching Haiti. Whether specialist predict that the hurricane will strike Haiti in three regions. These regions are where most of our Lutheran Churches are located : Jeremie, Les Cayes, South and North. Please pray the Lord so that Yvanne does not strike Haiti.

May the Lord bless all of you for being partners with us in the LCH Ministry Well keep in touch...

Reverend Revenel Benoit